UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25151
25 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text in English and French of a statement on the situation in Angola issued by the European Community and its member States on 22 January 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Denmark
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Angola

The Community and its member States deplore the outbreak of widespread and fierce fighting in Angola and the heavy losses of human lives incurred. They appeal strongly to the Government and to UNITA to bring an end to the fighting, which constitutes a serious set-back for the peace process that culminated in the free and fair elections of September 1992. They also appeal to the countries in the region to refrain from any act that could contribute to an internationalization of the present conflict in Angola.

A solution to Angola's problem cannot be found on the battleground. A general cease-fire is the first and immediate requirement. On this basis they regret the refusal by UNITA to attend a meeting of military leaders due to have taken place in Addis Ababa last week thus jeopardizing the efforts of the Special Representative of the United Nations, the Secretary-General and the observers to the peace process and they urge UNITA to reconsider that decision.

The Community and its member States reiterate their earlier appeals to the parties, in particular UNITA, to abide by the results of the elections, observe the Bicesse Peace Accords and resume the demobilization process. In this context, they urge the President of Angola and the UNITA leader to respond positively to the United Nations Secretary-General's call for an early meeting between them.

The Community and its member States consider that the United Nations should continue to play a key role in restoring and maintaining peace in Angola. They look forward to the report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the future role of UNAVEM. In the light of this report, the United Nations Security Council should consider the role and mandate of UNAVEM and the possibilities of strengthening the United Nations involvement in the peace process. However, it must be underlined that cessation of hostilities and genuine willingness to reopen the political dialogue are prerequisites for a meaningful United Nations contribution.

The Community and its member States reiterate their readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to Angola and, once the peace has been restored, to contribute to programmes of reconstruction.